



# Miami Gardens

## Hurricane Awareness Bulletin

A Publication of The City of Miami Gardens, Florida

www.miamigardens-fl.gov

Volume 1, No. 1, May/June 2006



### Message from the Mayor

I would like to most importantly express my gratitude to the residents of the City of Miami Gardens for your widespread patience, understanding and cooperation as we weathered the storms of the 2005 Hurricane Season.

As a community, we were humbled by the extreme adversities with which we were confronted in the aftermath of the 2005

hurricanes; especially with debris cleanup.

I am aware of the individual stress levels that still may affect many of us in connection with the damages and the still pending repairs; however, I ask that you continue to access the services of the City through our Building Services Department to ensure repairs to your home or business meet code requirements. I caution you to please do so because it would be a double tragedy to financially invest in repairs which may not meet code standards for the upcoming hurricane seasons.

The consequences of the hurricanes challenged the City staff to meet the demands of both residents and businesses. As a result, the City has expanded the Building Services Department in response to the demands of the past season and in anticipation of an active season in 2006; staff and space has increased by over 50%. In addition, we now have in place an Emergency Response Plan (ERP) that will be implemented in case a disaster strikes in our area. Our ERP brings us into compliance with the National Incident Management System mandated by the Office of Homeland Security. To complement our ERP, we have also worked diligently to develop a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), as part of our ERP, which currently consists of trained and certified community volunteers who are able to respond and provide first-aid emergency assistance to members

of the community in large scale disaster situations or any other critical emergencies.

We have also entered into contracts with two major disaster recovery companies to facilitate an expeditious and efficient clean-up after a disaster has struck. With all the constructive improvements we have made to our pre and post disaster response plan, as we approach Hurricane Season 2006, we are in a better position to respond to natural disasters as they may occur.

The 2006 Hurricane Season promises to be very active. With that in mind, we must prepare for the season with a mindset of "it's not if, but when" a hurricane hits our city. The season officially begins on June 1 and lasts through November 30. I urge you to plan early and not wait until the last minute to start preparing. The City, with the help of Florida Memorial University's Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) and the Miami Gardens JAYCEES, has created its first comprehensive hurricane preparedness guide, "The City of Miami Gardens' Hurricane Awareness Bulletin." As a community, we need to be ready to respond. Please read through this guide thoroughly as it has been prepared for you. Use the resources offered and have a plan ready for you and your family before a disaster strikes.

As we prepare our families and homes for the hurricane season to come, I urge you to remember that we are a community and community is about helping each other; neighbor to neighbor; block to block. We will be only as strong as the weakest person in the City of Miami Gardens. We must stand strong and band together.

We will continue to engage you in the process and assess our delivery of services so that we can continue to improve and provide you with the highest level of service. I thank you again on behalf of the City Council and the City Staff.

### Family Disaster Planning

- ☐ Discuss the type of hazards that could affect your family. Know your home's vulnerability to storm surge, flooding and wind.
- ☐ Locate a safe room or the safest areas in your home for each hurricane hazard. In certain circumstances the safest areas may not be your home but within your community.
- ☐ Determine escape routes from your home and places to meet.
- These should be measured in tens of miles rather than hundreds of miles.
- ☐ Have an out-of-state friend as a family contact, so all your family members have a single point of contact.
- ☐ Make a plan now for what to do with your pets if you need to evacuate.
- ☐ Post emergency telephone numbers by your phones and make sure your children know how and when to call 911
- ☐ Stock non-perishable emergency supplies and a Disaster Supply Kit.
- ☐ Use a (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) NOAA weather radio.
- ☐ Take First Aid, CPR and disaster preparedness classes.

### Starting Points

Be prepared to be self-sufficient for up to 3-5 days, including: food, water, and medicine.

Develop your personal disaster plan on how you will protect your household and property.

Check your insurance and be sure it includes replacement coverage, flood, and wind protection.

### THE CERT PROGRAM

During a large-scale disaster the response of any community's emergency services may be delayed or overwhelmed for a variety of reasons. This leaves the citizens of the community - family, neighbors, and coworkers - to provide for their own well-being and safety until professional responders arrive. This very reality is the cornerstone of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program.

The goal of the CERT program is to provide the private citizens who complete the course with the basic skills that they will need to respond to their community's immediate needs

in the aftermath of a disaster, when emergency services are not immediately available. By working together, CERTs can assist in saving lives and protecting property using the basic techniques in this course.

The CERT program is about readiness, people helping people, rescuer safety, and doing the greatest good for the greatest number. The program provides a positive and realistic approach to emergency and disaster situations where citizens will be initially on their own and their actions can make a difference. CERT is a community based volunteer effort and is a component of the Citizen Corps program.

The CERT program strives to present citizens with the facts about what to expect following a major disaster in their community and to

deliver the message about their responsibility for mitigation and preparedness. Through didactic and hands-on sessions they receive training in needed life saving skills with emphasis on decision making and rescuer safety.

For further information or to volunteer to be a part of the CERT program, please contact Charmaine Campbell at 305-622-8000 ext.2262, or [ccampbell@miamigardens-fl.gov](mailto:ccampbell@miamigardens-fl.gov).



# Important Weather Terms to Know

**It is advised that all residents keep abreast of all local forecasts and warnings and familiarize themselves with key weather terminology:**

**Tropical Wave:** A cluster of clouds and/or thunderstorm without a significant circulation and generally moving from east to west through the Tropics.

**Tropical Depression:** A cluster of clouds and/or thunderstorm without a significant circulation and sustained wind speeds of less than 39 mph.

**Tropical Storm:** An organized system of strong

thunderstorms with top sustained winds of 39 mph to 74 mph. Tropical storms can quickly develop into hurricanes. Storms are named when they reach tropical storm strength.

**Tropical Storm watch:** Tropical storm conditions are expected in the specified area of warning, within 36 hours.

**Tropical Storm Warning:** Tropical storm conditions are expected in the specified area of warning, within 24 hours.

**Hurricane:** An intense tropical weather system with a sustained wind speed of 74mph or higher.

**Storm Surge:** A dome of sea water up to about 20 feet that arrives with a hurricane, and can affect more than 100 miles of coastline. Evacuation zones are identified by their likelihood of being flooded by rising water; responsible for most hurricane deaths.

**Hurricane Watch:** Hurricane conditions are expected in the specified areas of the warning within 36 hours. During a hurricane watch, prepare to take immediate action to protect your family and property in case a

hurricane warning is issued.

**Hurricane Warning:** Hurricane conditions are expected in the specified area of the warning within 24 hours. Complete all storm preparations and immediately follow emergency management officials' advice about evacuation.

**Tornado:** Tornadoes occur usually in severe thunderstorms when wind changes direction and height, causing rotation. Wind speeds range from 40mph to 318mph adding to the destructive power of the hurricane.

## Citizens' Checklist: Ready, Set, Safety...

**Based on National Hurricane Center forecasts, Miami-Dade County will announce in the local media information about what citizens should be doing as a storm is approaching.**

Once residents hear that a tropical rainstorm has formed, listen for these stages of readiness:

**Ready:** There is a storm threat—review your plan and get ready to act.

**Set:** A storm is likely—take actions to protect your home and business.

**Safety:** A storm is forecast to strike—orders and instructions to evacuate and/or to take shelter will follow.

## Before a Hurricane Strikes

- ☐ Check to be certain your emergency equipment is in good working order and that you have enough supplies to last for at least two weeks.
- ☐ Obtain and store materials necessary to properly secure your home.
- ☐ Keep trees and shrubs trimmed. Cut weak branches and trees that could fall against your house.
- ☐ If you expect to evacuate your home, plan in advance where you will stay, how you will get there, including a back-up route and the supplies you will take.
- ☐ If you will need assistance evacuating to a Special Needs Evacuation Center, you will need to register in advance. Please contact your County Emergency Management Office at 305-248-5406.
- ☐ If you have elderly friends or relatives who will stay with you during a storm, keep photocopies of their prescriptions and include them in your emergency plans. Plan now when you will take care of their property and when you will pick them up.
- ☐ If you have a CB antenna, telescope it down and lower it away from any power lines. Be careful not to make contact with the power line - you could be electrocuted.
- ☐ Do not drain your swimming pool completely. Turn off electricity to your pool to prevent contamination.
- ☐ Bring in objects that can be blown away, such as garbage cans, garden tools, lawn furniture, and plants. Anchor objects that cannot be brought inside.
- ☐ Prepare your vehicle. Fill your fuel tank early. Gasoline may not be available for days after the hurricane strikes due to power outages.
- ☐ Place valuables and personal papers in waterproof containers and store them in the highest possible spot. Use plastic bags
- ☐ Live in a high-rise. Hurricane winds are stronger at high elevations. High-rises are susceptible to conditions that can cause uncontrollable fires during high winds.

### Plan your evacuation alternatives now...

- ☐ Make arrangements to stay with friends or relatives or at a low-rise inland hotel or motel.
- ☐ Relocate outside the evacuation area. Leave early to avoid heavy



for large items. Make sure you have adequate cash as ATMs may not be working.

- ☐ If you own a small boat on a trailer, store it inside a garage or warehouse. If you must leave your boat outside, attach the trailer tongue to something firm in the ground, let the air out the tires and make sure the boat is secured to the trailer.

### Plan to evacuate if you...

- ☐ Are advised to evacuate by Emergency Management officials.
- ☐ Live in a mobile home. Do not stay there under any

circumstances. traffic and roads that could be blocked by floodwater. Do not get caught on the road by a storm.

- ☐ As a last resort, go to a Red Cross Evacuation Center. Hurricane shelters will be available for people who have no place to go.
- ☐ REMEMBER: Do not go to the shelter until you hear an announcement that it is open.
- ☐ Set aside water for bathing and sanitary purposes by storing it in a bathtub and other bottles and jugs. Prior to filling the bathtub, scrub the tub, wash it down with bleach, then rinse.

## Miami Gardens' Emergency Numbers & Websites

### City of Miami Gardens

Police  
305-476-5432

City Hall  
305-622-8000

[www.miamigardens-fl.gov](http://www.miamigardens-fl.gov)

Hurricane Preparedness Office  
305-622-2250

### Emergency Management Offices

Miami-Dade  
305-468-5400

American Red Cross  
305-644-1200

7 Tropic Watch Hotline  
305-477-7751

Miami-Dade Special Needs  
305-513-7700

Answer Center - Miami-Dade  
305-468-5900

FEMA Registration  
[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)  
OR 800-621-FEMA

FEMA Help Line  
(after registration):  
800-525-0321

FL Dept. of Insurance  
Hurricane Helpline:  
305-377-5235

South Florida Regional  
Disaster Medical  
Assistance Team:  
305-273-6707

### Emergency Evacuation Assistance

Miami-Dade County:  
305-513-7700

Special Needs Transportation  
Assistance:  
305-248-5406

### Utility Problems

FPL

800-468-8243  
BellSouth  
305-780-2355

TECO Peoples Gas  
877-832-6747

### Home Repair

Miami-Dade County  
Weatherization Assistance  
Program:  
305-757-0955

Miami-Dade County Housing Agency  
Section 8  
Moderate Rehabilitation  
Program:  
305-438-8604

### Miami-Dade County Team Metro Answer Center

-Rumor Control  
-Special Needs Assistance  
-Miami Gardens  
Hurricane Evacuation  
Site Locations  
305-468-5900

TDD 305-468-5402 or 311  
<http://prepare.miamidade.gov>

**Special Needs Programs**  
County Residential Shuttering  
Program:  
305-622-8004

Community Action Agency:  
305-438-8604

Miami-Dade Housing Agency:  
305-250-5238

Salvation Army  
Miami-Dade County:  
305-637-6700



# Keeping Safe During a Hurricane



Weather conditions may deteriorate rapidly hours before the arrival of a hurricane's worst weather. Stay indoors. An interior room or a room without windows is usually the safest.

Passage of the hurricane eye: If the center (eye) passes through your area, continue to stay indoors unless emergency repairs are absolutely necessary. Wind or rain may stop for periods ranging from a few minutes to more than an hour, but...beware: The wind will suddenly pick up again from the opposite direction and possibly with greater force than before.

Stay inside a well-constructed building that is outside a flood zone. In structures such as a home, examine the building and plan in advance what you will do if winds become strong. Strong winds can produce deadly missiles and structural failure.

Stay away from windows and doors even if they are covered. Take refuge in a smaller interior room, closet, or

hallway. Take a battery-powered radio, TV or a NOAA Weather Radio and a flashlight with you to your place of refuge. Keep a clear escape path in case of fire.

Close all interior doors. Secure and brace external doors, particularly double inward opening doors and garage doors.

If you are in a two-story house, go to an interior first-floor room or basement, or a bathroom, closet, or under the stairs.

If you are in a multiple-story building and away from the water, go to the first or second floors and take refuge in the halls or other interior rooms away from windows. Interior stairwells and areas around elevator shafts are generally the strongest part of a building.

Lie on the floor under tables or other sturdy objects.

Be sure to take extra caution with light sources; do not use open candles or gas lanterns.

Category	Sustained Winds (MPH)	Expected Damage	Storm Surge
1	74-65	Minimal: Unanchored mobile homes, vegetation and signs	4-5 feet
2	96-110	Moderate: All mobile homes, roofs, small craft; flooding	6-8 feet
3	111-130	Extensive: Small buildings; low-lying roads cut off	9-12 feet
4	131-155	Extreme: Roofs destroyed, trees down, roads cut off, mobile homes destroyed, beach homes flooded	13-18 feet
5	More than 155	Catastrophic: Most buildings destroyed, vegetation destroyed, major roads cut off, homes flooded	Greater than 18 feet

Hurricane Categories are expected damages – Courtesy FEMA

## Key Points for the Elderly

- ❑ Plan on taking care of yourself without electricity. Remember that the person taking care of you and your electrical devices may not be available right before and directly after a storm. If you are unable to take care of yourself, make other arrangements now.
- ❑ If you are elderly, frail or a person with disabilities and have friends or relatives that can help with your property, housing and welfare, contact them now so that they can include their needs as part of their hurricane planning. They will need to include the time it will take for you to gather items you need and transportation time.
- ❑ Make a list of prescribed medications and get a month's supply. You should also make copies of the prescriptions, as your pharmacy's record may not be available right away.
- ❑ If you normally require a special diet, make sure you take along a three day supply of it in containers that will be easy for you to open.
- ❑ Transfer to a manual wheelchair if you are in a battery operated one. You may not be able to recharge the batteries.
- ❑ Make sure you are wearing an ID bracelet with your name, medications, allergies and contact information.
- ❑ If you are in a nursing home, ask to see their hurricane plan that details where and when the residents will be evacuated. Be sure to let your families and friends know where you will be taken if evacuated.

If you are special needs, register before the hurricane season with the City of Miami Gardens' Hurricane Preparedness office.

## After a Hurricane

- Remain indoors until the official "all clear" is given. Continue to monitor television and/or radio on your battery-powered unit.
- If you have evacuated, do not return home until officials announce your area is ready. Be sure to have proof of residency, such as a driver's license or a utility bill.

● **Telephone Communication:** Do not use your telephone unless you have an emergency. Do not call 911 except for life-threatening situations. Do not report individual interruptions in electricity, gas, water mains or telephone service. However, call police or utility companies to report downed power lines, broken gas or water mains. Report individual trouble only after service has been generally restored to your area.

● **Boiled water order:** Water supplies may be contaminated during a hurricane. The Public Health Department will issue a boiled-water order immediately after the hurricane passes. The order will remain in effect for at least 72 hours or longer. During this time, use only your pre-stored, dry or canned food.

● **Avoid injuries:** Many injuries occur after the storm passes. Careless equipment use causes the greatest number of post-storm

injuries. Be careful with open flames. Avoid carbon monoxide injuries by using hibachis and gas grills outside, never inside your house. When cutting fallen trees, be extremely careful.

● **Portable power generators:** Connect a

portable or recreational vehicle (RV) generator to home wiring can injure utility workers and is a fire hazard. Before using an RV or portable generator, it is important to turn off the electricity at your main circuit breaker or fuse box. Disconnect portable generators before turning on power to your home. A portable generator should be operated OUTSIDE the house (you can then run a heavy duty, properly grounded extension cord to power your electrical appliances.)

● **Electrical safety after a hurricane:** Do not touch fallen or low-hanging wires of any kind under any circumstances. A wire that seems harmless could be crossed with a live wire. Treat every power line you see as deadly. Whether it's on the ground, hanging loose or attached to an object—do not touch it. Stay away from puddles with fallen wires in them. Call FPL

immediately to report hazards such as downed power lines.





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# Hurricane Checklist

## The Basics

- ☐ Bottled water (1 quart per person daily)
- ☐ Manual can opener
- ☐ Non-perishable foods (Canned goods, cereals, snack bars)
- ☐ Powdered or single serve drinks,
- ☐ Packaged ketchup and mustard
- ☐ Peanut butter and jelly
- ☐ Bread in moisture proof packaging
- ☐ Instant tea or coffee
- ☐ Flashlight ( 1 per person)\*
- ☐ Portable battery powered lanterns
- ☐ Large trash bags (lots of them)
- ☐ Battery operated radio\*
- ☐ Extra batteries
- ☐ First-aid kits (aspirin, antibiotic cream)
- ☐ Mosquito repellant
- ☐ Sunscreen (45 SPF recommended)
- ☐ Water-proof matches / butane lighter

## Money\*

- ☐ Unscented bleach or water purification tablets
- ☐ Maps of the area

## Important Documents

- ☐ Insurance documents
- ☐ A list of all important contacts (family, doctor, insurance)
- ☐ Banking information
- ☐ Leases/mortgage/contracts
- ☐ Proof of occupancy (such as utility bill)
- ☐ Photo inventory of personal belongings\*
- ☐ Waterproof container to keep documents protected
- ☐ Wills
- ☐ Passports
- ☐ Immunization records
- ☐ Bank Account numbers
- ☐ Credit card account numbers and company names and telephone numbers
- ☐ Family records ( births, marriage, death certificates)

## Cooking

- ☐ Sterno fuel
- ☐ Portable camp stove or grill
- ☐ Stove fuel or charcoal with lighter fluid
- ☐ Disposable eating utensils, plates, cups
- ☐ Napkins and paper towels
- ☐ Aluminum foil
- ☐ Oven mitts

## Personal Supplies

- ☐ Prescription medicines (1 mth. supply and copy of prescription)
- ☐ Toilet paper
- ☐ Entertainment: books, games, magazines etc\*
- ☐ Bedding: pillows, sleeping bag\*
- ☐ Change of clothing\*
- ☐ Rain ponchos and work gloves
- ☐ Extra glasses or contacts
- ☐ Soap, washcloth, towels, toothpaste
- ☐ Feminine supplies
- ☐ First Aid kit

## Babies

- ☐ Disposable diapers\*
- ☐ Formula, food, medicine\*
- ☐ Bottles and feeding utensils

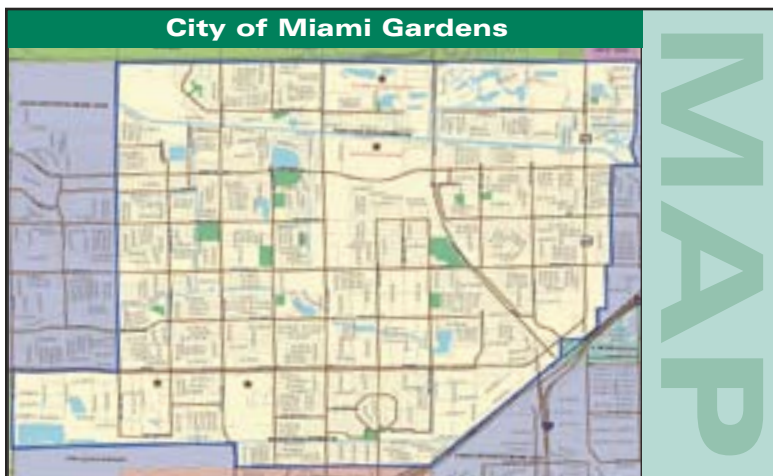
## Pet Supplies

- ☐ Dry and canned food for 14 days
- ☐ ID tags and collars
- ☐ Proof of recent immunizations
- ☐ Water ( ½ gallon per day)
- ☐ Litter box and supplies
- ☐ Carrying container

## Other Necessities

- ☐ Tool box
- ☐ ABC rated fire extinguisher
- ☐ Masking tape or duct tape
- ☐ Outdoor extension cords
- ☐ Spray paint
- ☐ Standard single line phone (after hurricanes, many people still service and no phone)
- ☐ Local phone book
- ☐ Fill up your gas tank and spare supply for emergencies

\* If you are planning to evacuate to a shelter, please be sure to take these items



## Special Needs Checklist

- ☐ Medications, equipment and hygienic supplies (with instructions).
- ☐ Insulin syringes and container for needle disposal
- ☐ Name/Phone number of physician or hospital where you receive care.
- ☐ Special dietary instructions.
- ☐ Sleeping gear (blankets, pillows).
- ☐ Cash (secured in a safe place).
- ☐ Extra clothing (centers may be cold).
- ☐ Important documents for insurance medical care, and identification.

## Remember Your Pets

Pets are not permitted in Red Cross Shelters. Plan to take them to a friend's or relative's home, OR locate a veterinary clinic or hotel that accepts pets in times of emergency.

- ☐ Remember to carry them in a sturdy carrier.
- ☐ Pack plenty of food and water for your pets.
- ☐ Have your pets' ID, collar, leash and proof of vaccinations.
- ☐ Take a current photo of your pets in case they get lost.



## Mayor & Council

Mayor Shirley Gibson  
Aaron Campbell Jr.  
Barbara Watson  
Ulysses Harvard  
Melvin L. Bratton  
Sharon Pritchett  
Oscar Braynon II

## City of Miami Gardens Staff and Departments

City Hall- Main Contact	305-622-8000
Ronetta Taylor, City Clerk	305-622-8003
Dr. Danny Crew, City Manager	305-622-8007
Renee Farmer, Assistant City Manager	305-622-8006
Horace McHugh, Assistant City Manager	305-622-8008
Christopher Steers, Assistant City Manager	305-622-8005
Tsahai Codner, Director Keep MG Beautiful	305-622-8009
Lillie Odom, Admin. Asst. to Mayor/Council	305-622-8010
Building Department	305-622-8027
Code Enforcement Department	305-622-8020/8021
Finance Department	305-622-8000
Human Resources Department	305-622-8030
Parks & Recreation Department	305-622-2512
Planning and Zoning Department	305-622-8023
Police Department Non-Emergency	305-476-5423
Public Works	305-622-8004
Procurement Department	305-622-8031
School Crossing Guard Program	305-622-8000